

Saint Bernard Church



August 6, 2023 The Transfiguration of The Lord

Rev. David F. Gaffney, Pastor

sbc.pastor@aol.com

Rev. John E. Unsworth, Pastor, Emeritus

Rev. Charles Maher, Weekday Assistant

Rev. Albino Barrera, OP Weekend Assistant

Pastoral Assistant: Angelo Giacchi
Business Manager: David Cote
Elementary Faith Formation: Dawn Masterson
Youth Faith Formation: Christina Pichette
Music Director: Alison Shea

Mass Schedules

Weekends

Saturday Vigil ~ 5:00 PM

Sundays

7:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM

Weekdays

8:00 AM Monday through Friday

Address: 275 Tower Hill Road
North Kingstown, RI 02852

Phone : 401-295-0387

E-mail: sbc.bus@verizon.net (David)
sbc.pa@verizon.net (Angelo)

Web: www.stbernardnk.org

Hours: Mon - Tues: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Thursday & Friday: Closed

Baptism: Please call Angelo at the Parish Center for information about scheduling and preparation.

Communion to the Sick: Please notify us of those sick and in need of Communion at home.

Marriage: Please call 10 months in advance.

Holy Orders: Tel: 401-831-8011
www.catholicpriest.com

Project Rachel: Post abortion counseling
Tel: 401-421-7833, ext. 118

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

Following Tuesday's 8:00 AM Mass until 11:00 AM

Family Faith Formation Program

Our programs provide parishioners of all ages opportunities for learning, growing and living our Faith through common experiences, age-specific learning and interactive sharing. Please call the Parish Center for information regarding any of our programs or email:

First Communion Grade 2:
sbcreligiouseducation@gmail.com

Confirmation Grades 8 & 9: sbc.teenff@gmail.com

Gospel Weeklies Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7:
stbernardgospelweeklies@gmail.com

Ponderings

I will continue this week with a few thoughts from Brandon Vogt's book, Return: How To Draw Your Child To The Church. You will recall from a previous Ponderings that we used that book several weeks ago for our 'book club'.

In Chapter Three he speaks about "The Five Big Myths About Fallen Away Catholics". First, 'they will come back eventually when they get married or have kids.' While there are many examples of individuals returning to church when they want to get married and when they have children---I have witnessed this numerous times----the author says that 'statistically speaking' this does not happen very often. Second, 'I took them to Mass and sent them to Catholic school---that should be enough, right?' The author points out that religious institutions (such as a Catholic school) support the faith development of the child but is not the primary mover---that remains the parents. He also says if there is 'ritual' without 'relationship' they may not stick around. In other words, just coming to Mass or receiving the sacraments is not enough---they have to grow in a relationship with Jesus. Third, 'they because of me, it's my fault'. There is usually no 'one cause' for a person drifting away or leaving. Everyone of us has been given the gift of 'free will' and we all make choices. The author cautions that we should not let their choice to leave shape your identity as 'a failure' or 'a bad parent'. Fourth, 'they won't listen to me, it's just impossible to have a discussion about faith.' This might very well be true---you may have attempted to have a discussion many times. The author suggests that rather than entering the conversation by 'talking' maybe we could enter the conversation by 'listening'. He suggests listening to them---let their questions open up the dialogue. Fifth, 'it's hopeless, no matter what happens, my child is never coming back to the church.' The author points out that this is simply not true. God will never give up on your child. The story of the Prodigal Son is a good reminder to all of us that God waits patiently for our return. Sometimes the choices of a child bring them, like the prodigal son, to a 'foreign land' where they come to painful discovery that they are not living the way they know God wants them to live.

Since God does not give up on your child/grandchild, then we should not give up on them either. We need to remain hopeful----encouraging and inviting them---by our words and by our actions. We will have the opportunity (as mentioned in a previous Ponderings) to write the first name or first initial of our loved one/family member on a piece of paper—and we will pray as a community for all of them. Your prayer for them become "our" prayer for them. Solidarity in prayer can bring us strength and comfort. When it comes to prayer, the author recommends the following: don't stop praying for your child/grandchild. You might become weary or discouraged---turn to St. Monica---who shed many tears as she prayed for her son. Another suggestion is to pray that a 'spiritual guide' will enter their lives. It might not be you who brings them back to church---maybe it will be a co-worker, a neighbor, a friend---who extends an invitation to them. If their present state brings 'suffering' into your life, offer that suffering to the Lord.

In conversations we may have with our children he recommends that we 'equip ourselves'----that we continue to learn about our faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a great reference---if you are wondering what the Church believes about any particular subject. There is a website, Catholicism.com, that can be a good tool in your search. If you should get into a discussion and find you are 'stumped' by a question they have, here is a good response: "let me do some research and get back to you" ---stay calm. Look for a positive intention behind a criticism they may have. There may be a kernel of truth in what they have to say.

Continue to nourish your faith even as you engage with family members who have drifted away! Make sure that you are continuing to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

--Fr. Gaffney

We welcome families to bring their children—our youngest parishioners—in their strollers to Mass.



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, August 7

8:00 AM – *Joaquim Manuel, Jr.*

TUESDAY, August 8

8:00 AM – *Innocents of Abortion*

WEDNESDAY, August 9

8:00 AM – *John Keefe, II*

THURSDAY, August 10

8:00 AM – *Joseph Renquin*

FRIDAY, August 11

8:00 AM – *Julia Buckley*
by her family

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, August 12

5:00 PM – *John & Rose Giacchi*

SUNDAY, August 13

7:00 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

8:30 AM – *Richard Johanson*

10:30 AM – *Charlene Morgan*
by her family



Grief Support Group.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please contact the parish office by phone or e-mail to let us know if you want to be part of the group.

Save the Date: St. Bernard Parish Feast Picnic: Saturday, August 19th.

After the 5:00 p.m. Mass we will have our parish picnic----hamburgers, hotdogs, water will be provided. Start time is approximately 6:00 p.m. Bring the whole family! Please e-mail the parish office to 'rsvp' for the parish picnic.



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Wedding Anniversary Celebration at the Cathedral

The Office of Marriage Preparation and Enrichment is hosting the annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration to honor couples of the Diocese of Providence who will be observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and OVER 50 years wedding anniversaries in 2023. The celebration will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Providence. It will include Mass, renewal of marriage vows, a personalized certificate for each couple and a reception for the couples and their families. Bishop Richard G. Henning will be the main celebrant and homilist. You must register with the parish by September 10. Please call the parish office or e-mail the parish office (sbc.pa@verizon.net) if you would like to attend this special celebration.

Parish Support

| | July 9, 2023 | 2022 |
|--------|---------------|-------------|
| Basket | \$8,557.00 | \$5,830.00 |
| ACH | \$3,316.00 | \$2,918.00 |
| | | |
| | July 16, 2023 | 2022 |
| Basket | \$7,766.00 | \$5,463.00 |
| ACH | \$3,661.00 | \$2,570.00 |
| YTD | \$35,786.00 | \$27,643.00 |

Remember St. Bernard Church in your will and estate planning. Thank you.

While You're Away Don't Forget

If you are away this summer enjoying the beach or far-away places, please don't forget that back home in old St. Bernard's, we still have to pay our bills. If you are away and miss a few weeks of your budget contributions, please try to make them up so that we can keep going or you can use the Online Giving Option. We miss you while you're away, and we miss your generosity too!

Morning Glory Gathering

Please join us for coffee and socializing on **Thursday, August 10** after the 8:00 AM morning Mass in the Parish Hall.



Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place immediately after the morning Mass on Tuesdays (approximately 8:30 a.m.) Benediction and reposi-tion at 11:00 a.m. This is an opportunity for quiet, prayerful reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

**St Bernard Third Annual
Golf Tournament
SAVE THE DATE!**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

**GOLF, DINNER,
CONTESTS, PRIZES
New Venue!
RICHMOND
COUNTRY CLUB**

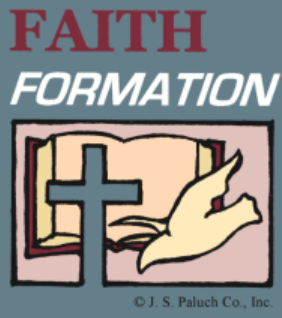


If you played last year, please join us again. If you did not play, please join us this year! A great time was had by all! Meet fellow parishioners. Enjoy the day! Look for additional information and register on our website: <https://www.stbernardnk.org/golf>



Homebound Parishioners

Please let the parish know of any 'homebound' parishioners---those who cannot leave their homes---and might like to receive Holy Communion at home. Also, we like to 'keep in touch' with greeting cards for them. Call the parish office. Thank you.



Faith Formation
It's Registration
Time!!!!

Check out our website:

www.stbernardnk.org

for all details about the changes to the program for this year. Please view Fr. Gaffney's introduction video and the informational slideshow first for an explanation of how the program will be running this year and then review the instructions on how to register your child. Also, registration and payment can be done on our website. Upon your review of the documents, should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 295-0387 or email at:

sbcreligiouseducation@gmail.com.

Registration Deadline: 8/13/2023.

A late processing fee of \$20.00 will be applied after that date.

Power washing the church before painting!
Our maintenance collection at work! Thank you!



Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I have long been a fan of the movies. This despite the fact that I have not been to see one in a theater since before Covid struck. Cable TV provides my supply. The techniques used to tell their stories have advanced from an earlier era when movie illusions were called "trick photography," That has since evolved to something called "CGI," or "Computer Generated Imagery." Now we realize that such things as the crowds hooting and hollering in the Roman Colosseum are not live movie extras but computer produced images. Same goes for scenes where two great armies crossing the wide valley between them with a clash of clubs and swords are not really there. You can see how the movie studios save lots in salary money. No "extras" needed for such scenes.

When it comes to today's feast of the "Transfiguration" of Jesus, we dare not think of such cinematic trickery as might be used to portray it for the big screen. We risk this if we get too caught up in what I might call the "thinginess" of this supernatural event. Here we have a gospel scene where that special trio of Peter, James and John get a glimpse of heaven. The hallmarks of divine activity are all present: a mountain top, a cloud, and a Voice from heaven.

Christ in brilliant divine splendor converses with the long buried Moses and Elijah. His body is not the same one easily seen by the Apostles on the roads they traveled together on the dusty roads of Galilee and Judea, Yet it is the same person Jesus, whom they called "Master."

We remember that this Gospel scene is proclaimed by the Churriguera at the start of Lent. It has aspects of a pep rally then, encouraging us to do our Lenten penances with a clear purpose of amendment. That image easily comes to my mind from years of attendance at a Friday afternoon high school rally before a big weekend game.

In a similar way, we need the Lord's encouragement as we do battle with the prevailing culture all around us. Our Christian faith has been for quite a while the object of so much scorn and sarcasm that we need reminders of who it is we honor and follow. You could call it a "Clash of the 2 H's", namely "Hope vs the Headlines". Peter, James and John will soon feel this same tension in their days, albeit without newspapers. When they walked down the mountain after that spectacular vision, they did so with a very natural Jesus into the valley of human confusion that still exists right outside our churches. They had their mission then. We have ours now. Tell the world about Jesus, His Word and His ways.

On this late summer Sunday, aware of our task, it seems helpful to note what somebody wrote, namely that "judging from the way some people behave these days, they must think hell is air-conditioned!"

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